

EXHIBIT A
PENDING CLAIMS AS OF JULY 18, 2002
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22. (new) A method for treating Hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection or inhibiting HBV virus replication comprising administering a compound to an HBV-infected patient that modulates the level of cytosolic calcium.

23. (new) A method for inhibiting Hepatitis B virus (HBV) replication in a cell wherein the level of cytosolic calcium is altered comprising administering a compound that reduces the altered level of cytosolic calcium to levels comparable to those observed in the absence of HBV.

24. (new) The method of claim 22 or 23 wherein the compound decreases or interferes with an HBx-mediated change in cytosolic calcium.

25. (new) The method of claim 24 wherein the compound decreases or interferes with the activity of a mitochondrial calcium channel.

26. (new) The method of claim 24 wherein the compound inhibits or interferes with the activity of an endoplasmic reticulum calcium channel.

27. (new) The method of claim 24 wherein the compound is Cyclosporin A.

28. (new) The method of claim 24 wherein the compound is BAPTA.

29. (new) The method of claim 22 wherein the compound that modulates the level of cytosolic calcium is determined by an *in vitro* assay comprising:

- a) contacting a cell expressing HBx with the compound;
- b) determining whether the level of cytosolic calcium is modulated in those cells contacted with the compound as compared to the level of cytosolic calcium in cells expressing HBx in the absence of the compound.

30. (new) The method of claim 23 wherein the compound that alters the level of cytosolic calcium is determined by an *in vitro* assay comprising:

- a) contacting a cell expressing HBx with the compound;
- b) determining whether the level of cytosolic calcium is altered in those cells

contacted with the compound as compared to the level of cytosolic calcium in cells expressing HBx in the absence of the compound.